

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of any changes to the claims and the remarks herein. Please contact the undersigned to conduct a telephone interview in accordance with MPEP 713.01 to resolve any remaining requirements and/or issues prior to sending another Office Action. Relevant portions of MPEP 713.01 are included on the signature page of this amendment.

In the Preliminary Amendment submitted on April 2, 2002 at page 7 applicants state:

The present application is a Continuation of U.S. Application Serial Number 08/872,579, filed on June 11, 1997, now Issued as U.S. 6,334,247 B1 which is a Divisional of U.S. Application Serial Number 08/754,869, filed on November 22, 1996, now issued as U.S. 5,821,763 on October 13, 1998, which is a Continuation of U.S. Application Serial Number 08/055,485, filed on April 30, 1993 now Issued as 5,635,846 on June 3, 1997.

Claim 47 has been objected to. In response to the Examiner's objection the term "element" has been added after "compliant core" in line 2. This corrects a typographical error.

Claims 29-43, 45 and 52 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Eldridge et al., 6,336,269. Applicants respectfully disagree since the priority date of the current application is prior to the filing date of U.S. 6,336,269. (Eldridge)

Claims 44 and 46-51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable under Eldridge in view of Japanese Patent Publication No.: JP60107845 A.

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As stated above Eldridge is not a reference since the present application has a filing date prior to the filing date of Eldridge.

In view of the changes to the claims and the remarks herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the above-identified application. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the application further, or if additional information would be required, the undersigned will cooperate fully to assist in the prosecution of this application.

Please charge any fee necessary to enter this paper and any previous paper to deposit account 09-0468.

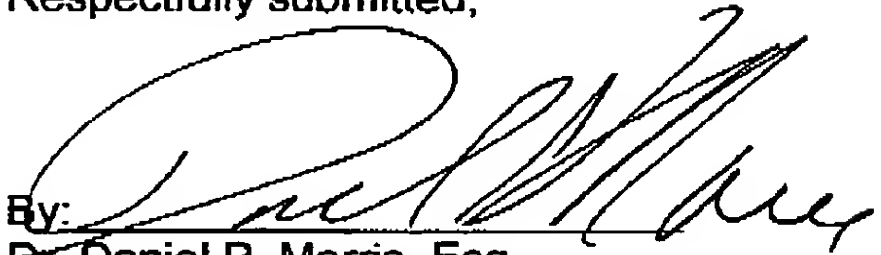
If the above-identified Examiner's Action is a final Action, and if the above-identified application will be abandoned without further action by applicants, applicants file a Notice of Appeal to the Board of Appeals and Interferences appealing the final rejection of the claims in the above-identified Examiner's Action. Please charge deposit account 09-0468 any fee necessary to enter such Notice of Appeal.

In the event that this amendment does not result in allowance of all such claims, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone interview at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

MPEP 713.01 states in part as follows:

Where the response to a first complete action includes a request for an interview or a telephone consultation to be initiated by the examiner, ... the examiner, as soon as he or she has considered the effect of the response, should grant such request if it appears that the interview or consultation would result in expediting the case to a final action.

Respectfully submitted,

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